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REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

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For the Year Ending 31st December,  
**1945**




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Vice-Chairman—

COUNCILLOR THOMAS LAING.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

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Medical Officer of Health—E. F. DAWSON-WALKER, M.D.,  
B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector—J. SAVAGE, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector—H. E. RAINE, M.C., C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector—R. R. SHORT, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

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A.M.I.Struct.E., F.I.A.S.

Cleansing Superintendent—W. ANGUS, M.Inst.P.C.

Water Superintendent—R. BLAKEY.

Thorpe Infectious Diseases Hospital Medical Superintendent:  
E. F. DAWSON-WALKER, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Matron—Mrs. G. Harrop (Resigned November, 1945).  
Miss D. Green (Appointed December, 1945).

# EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT.

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## REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1945.

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EASINGTON,

CO. DURHAM,

1946.

Mr. Chairman, Councillor Mrs. Winter, and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1945.

On March 26th of that year I commenced duty as your Medical Officer of Health in succession to Dr. W. V. MacFarlane, and for three-quarters of the year the department has been under my control.

A detailed account of the activities of the department is given in the various sections of this report, much of it in tabular form. The final section, which relates to the work of the Sanitary Inspectors' Department, has been contributed by the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

In this letter the contents of the report will be briefly summarised and comment made where necessary.

### *Vital Statistics—Birth Rate.*

The figure of 21.1 per 1,000 of the population for the birth rate shows a slight decline from that for 1944, namely 22.2. After dropping to the low level of 18.7 in 1940 the rate rose steadily until it reached the figure mentioned in 1944.

Compared with the rate for England and Wales as a whole (16.1) and the 148 smaller towns (19.2), the district has a relatively high degree of fertility.

### *Maternal Mortality.*

It is highly gratifying to record that the maternal mortality rate for the district was nil, as compared with the national rate of 1.46.

Many factors may have contributed to this satisfactory state of affairs. From the beginning of the century until 1935, the mortality from pregnancy and child bearing in the country as a whole remained almost stationary at four deaths per thousand births, but by 1943 it had fallen to half the 1935 rate.

The discovery and use of the sulphonamide group of drugs, and more latterly of penicillin, have undoubtedly contributed in a large measure to this result, together with the more frequent use of blood and plasma transfusions.

Much credit must also be given to the medical practitioners and midwives practising in the area, whose work is often carried out in difficult circumstances.

While the absence of any maternal death is a matter for congratulation it would be unwise to be too complacent. Twelve cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified during the year, and the higher birth rate is causing difficulties due to the shortage of midwives, and to the very inadequate number of maternity beds available.

This latter shortage is no new problem, but has been rendered more acute in recent years owing to the housing shortage. There would appear to be a growing wish among women to be delivered in institutions even when this is not necessary on medical grounds. Whether this attitude will persist when the housing shortage is eased, and reasonable home facilities are available to all, is difficult to say.

As to the present inadequacy of the number of maternity beds available for the population of the district there can be no two opinions.

### *Infantile Mortality.*

The death rate for all infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births was 54.08. The figure shows a decline from 59.76 in 1944, but still contrasts unfavourably with the figure for England and Wales as a whole, which was 46 in both 1944 and 1945.



Of 88 deaths of infants under one year of age 42, or 47.7 per cent. occurred in the first month of life, giving a neo-natal mortality rate of 25.8 per 1,000 live births. Of these 42 deaths 16 were certified as due to prematurity.

The infantile mortality rate as been described as probably the best index available as to the social circumstances of an area in that it tends to be high when housing is bad and overcrowding prevalent, and when knowledge of mothercraft is poor. It is gratifying to note that the figure of 54.08 is the lowest in the last decade, and moreover the lowest ever recorded for the area, but the fact that it is higher than the national rate by 18 per cent. indicates the urgent need for a speedy improvement in housing conditions and the lessening of overcrowding.

At the same time the figure, with the high level of deaths due to prematurity, constitutes a challenge to the maternity and child welfare authority for the area.

#### *General Death Rate.*

There is little to be said regarding the general death rate which at 11 per 1,000 of the population is a little above the figure for 1944, and is a fraction below the rate for the country as a whole, namely 11.4.

#### *Individual Causes of Death.*

Heart disease continued to head the list of causes of death, followed by cancer in the second place. This latter disease is closely followed by deaths due to disease of the arteries and veins of the brain, which in turn is followed by pneumonia and bronchitis. Deaths due to the diseases of early infancy and congenital malformations are just in excess of those due to tuberculosis (all forms). Table I gives a detailed statement of the causes of death under age groups.

#### *Tuberculosis.*

The statistics for this disease are set out and summarised in the section of the report dealing with it.

It should be noted that the mortality rate for the pulmonary form of the disease is below the national figure, but that for the non pulmonary form is higher.

The death rate for this latter form of the disease has fallen rapidly in many urban areas as the proportion of pasteurised milk consumed has increased. It is possible that the solution of the problem in this area may be found along these lines.

### *Infectious Diseases.*

The notifications of these diseases are set out in the report, and there is little on which to comment. The number of measles notifications showed a considerable increase on the previous year but the mortality was low. Both the incidence and mortality rate of diphtheria showed a welcome decline.

### *Thorpe Hospital.*

Three new tables have been included to show more clearly the work carried out in this hospital during 1945.

It was a comparatively quiet year, the number of admissions being 45 below that for 1944, but much useful work was accomplished and a word of commendation is due to the staff for their steady and conscientious work.

In the latter months of the year steps were taken with a view to endeavouring to obtain for the hospital the status of an affiliated training school for fever nurses, but an account of these efforts belongs more properly to the report for 1946.

With the conclusion of the war it was possible to make a start with the purchase of much needed furniture and equipment.

### *Diphtheria Immunisation.*

In the section of the report devoted to this subject the statistics are set out on the lines recently advocated by the Ministry of Health, and these show that steady progress has been maintained.

During the year a scheme was submitted to, and adopted by, the Council for the appointment of a fully qualified nurse who would offer, and if desired carry out, immunisation of children in their own homes, when the mother was unwilling or unable to bring them to their doctor's surgery. The circular issued by the Ministry of Health in January, 1946, placing the responsibility for the immunisation of all pre-school children upon the Child Welfare Authority, in this case the Durham County Council, caused the scheme to be suspended. The use of trained nurses, in most cases Health Visitors, for immunisation has been tried with marked success in two or three areas, although there has been strong opposition to the procedure from certain quarters.

The rise in the immunisation level in these areas is sufficient evidence of the success of such schemes, and it would appear

that the desired level of 75—80 per cent. of immunised children will be most likely to be obtained along such lines.

### *Scabies.*

Details of the work carried out at the one remaining scabies clinic are set out. The incidence of this disease is less than in the early war years, but in view of the virtual impossibility of treating patients for this troublesome complaint adequately in their own homes, this service will probably have to be continued. Steps are to be taken to centralise all treatment at the one clinic.

### *Housing.*

A section on this subject, which has such an important bearing on the health and well-being of the area, has been contributed by the Engineer and Surveyor.

### *Water.*

In the section dealing with the sanitary circumstances of the area detailed information regarding the water supply of the district is given.

The quality of the piped supply is good, but, as an additional safeguard, the number of samples taken for bacteriological examination has been increased in 1946.

Samples are also to be taken from the houses without mains supply.

### *Conclusion.*

The foregoing is a brief summary of the work of the Health Department in the eventful year of 1945, which saw the end of the war and the beginnings of a gradual return to peace time working. By the time this report is in print it is probable that the new Health Bill will have become law, with all the many changes which must be consequent thereon, and it is unlikely that there will be more than two further annual reports to this Council in their present format.

In closing I wish to express to the Council my appreciation of their continued support, and extend to the staff, and to the Senior Sanitary Inspector in particular, my grateful thanks for their help and willing co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Winter and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. F. DAWSON-WALKER,  
Medical Officer of Health.



## SECTION I.

## CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	34,653
Registrar General's estimate of resident population, mid. 1945	...	...	...	...	76,990
Number of Inhabited Houses on 31st December 1945 according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	...	21,012
Rateable Value (at 1st April 1945)	...	...	...	...	£301,433
Sum represented by Penny Rate (1944-5)	...	...	...	...	£1,112

## VITAL STATISTICS.

## Births :—Live Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	774	771	1545
Illegitimate	46	36	82
	<hr/> 820	<hr/> 807	<hr/> 1627

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	21.13
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

## Stillbirths—

Legitimate	24	19	43
Illegitimate	...	1	1
	<hr/> 25	<hr/> 19	<hr/> 44

Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	27.04
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## Infantile Mortality—

Deaths of infants under 1 year :—

Legitimate	45	37	82
Illegitimate	3	3	6
	<hr/> 48	<hr/> 40	<hr/> 88



## INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES.

Death rate of all infants under one year per 1000 live births, 54.08.

Death rate of legitimate infants under one year per 1000 legitimate live births, 53.07.

Death rate of illegitimate infants under one year per 1000 illegitimate live births, 73.17.

	Total	Male	Female
DEATHS—	848	466	382
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	11.01

## MATERNAL DEATHS—

Deaths from Puerperal Causes ...	...	Nil
from Sepsis ...	...	Nil
from Other Causes ...	...	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate	...	Nil

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TABLE 1. DEATHS—CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH.

	All Ages	Under 1	1 to 2	3 to 5	6 to 15	16 to 25	26 to 45	46 to 65	66 to 75	76 up
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	3	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory ...	35	—	—	—	—	14	16	4	1	—
Other Tuberculosis Diseases ...	9	1	1	3	1	1	—	2	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Influenza ...	4	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Measles ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Encephalitis ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Cancer ...	115	—	—	—	1	1	14	44	46	9
Diabetes ...	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions ...	113	—	—	—	1	1	2	30	43	36
Heart Disease ...	207	—	—	1	—	3	10	66	68	59
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	19	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	11	6
Bronchitis ...	45	12	—	—	—	1	2	15	10	5
Pneumonia ...	43	19	1	4	—	—	5	10	3	1
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	13	1	—	—	1	—	2	5	4	—
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum ...	7	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis ...	5	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases ...	13	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	3	2
Nephritis ...	19	—	—	—	1	2	3	3	7	3
Premature Births ...	16	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Debility ...	24	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suicide ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—
Road Traffic Accidents ...	6	—	—	—	4	1	1	—	—	—
Other Violent Causes ...	34	2	—	2	3	7	7	8	1	4
All Other Causes ...	89	3	1	1	2	—	6	13	17	46
Totals	848	88	7	12	18	34	79	221	217	172

TABLE 2.

**Cancer**

The following table gives the deaths from Cancer, in age groups, and the localisation of the disease.

			Ages in Years					Totals
			1 to 26	26 to 45	46 to 65	66 to 75	76 up	
Stomach	...	...	—	4	17	12	—	33
Breast	...	...	—	1	5	4	1	11
Prostate	...	...	—	—	—	3	—	3
Uterus	...	...	—	2	5	2	—	9
Liver	...	...	—	—	3	3	—	6
Lungs	...	...	1	3	3	1	—	8
Bowels	...	...	—	—	4	6	3	13
Other Causes	...	...	1	4	7	15	5	32
			2	14	44	46	9	115

TABLE 3.

**Table of Birth and Death Rates for the Past 10 Years**

Year	General Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate	Birth Rate
1936	11.8	86.1	20.5
1937	11.2	69.5	20.3
1938	11.5	62.3	20.0
1939	11.4	81.2	18.9
1940	11.2	62.5	18.7
1941	11.6	73.4	19.7
1942	10.8	58.0	19.8
1943	11.3	75.3	20.6
1944	10.6	59.7	22.2
1945	11.0	54.1	21.1

1945	General Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate	Birth Rate
England & Wales	11.4	46.0	16.1
Easington Rural District	11.0	54.1	21.1

TABLE 4.  
Birth Rate, Death Rate and Analysis of Mortality during the Year, 1945.

	Rate per 1,000 Total population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population							Rate per 1,000 Live Births.		
	Live Births	Stillbirths	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths (under 1 year)
England and Wales	16.1	0.46	11.4	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.08	5.6	46
Easington Rural District	21.1	0.57	11.0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.05	4.3	54



TABLE 5.  
Infantile Mortality Rates  
(10 years)

Year	Births	Easington R. D. Inf. Mortality Rate	England & Wales Inf. Mortality Rate
1936	1800	86.1	59
1937	1683	69.5	58
1938	1605	62.3	53
1939	1527	81.2	50
1940	1471	62.5	55
1941	1485	73.4	59
1942	1488	57.0	49
1943	1539	75.3	49
1944	1690	59.7	46
1945	1627	54.1	46

TABLE 6.  
Death Rates (10 years)

Year	Deaths	Easington R. D. Death Rate	England & Wales Death Rate
1936	1085	11.8	12.1
1937	934	11.2	12.4
1938	925	11.5	11.6
1939	924	11.4	12.1
1940	885	11.2	14.3
1941	884	11.6	12.9
1942	808	10.8	11.6
1943	850	11.3	12.1
1944	811	10.6	11.6
1945	848	11.0	11.4

TABLE 7.  
Natural Increase of Population

Year	Births	Deaths	Rate of Natural Increase per 1,000 population.
1936	1800	1085	8.6
1937	1683	934	9.3
1938	1605	925	8.4
1939	1527	924	7.5
1940	1471	885	7.4
1941	1485	884	7.8
1942	1488	808	8.4
1943	1539	850	9.2
1944	1690	811	11.5
1945	1627	848	10.1

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 1945.

Population (estimated mid. 1945) ...	...	...	76,990
Areas (acres) ...	...	...	34,653
Estimated number of houses ...	...	...	21,012
Rateable value (at 1st April, 1945) ...	...	...	£301,433
Sum produced by 1d. rate (1944-5) ...	...	...	£1,112
Births ...	...	...	1,627
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			21.13
Deaths ...	...	...	848
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			11.01
Death rate of infants under one year of age		...	54.1

## Chief Causes of Death

Cause.	Number.	Percentage of total deaths.
Diseases of the heart ...	207	24.41
Cancer ...	115	13.56
Diseases of the veins and arteries ...	113	13.33
Bronchitis and pneumonia ...	88	10.38
Diseases of early infancy, and congenital malformations under 1 year	47	5.54
Tuberculosis (all forms) ...	44	5.19
Tuberculosis (pulmonary) ...	35	4.13

## Infectious Diseases.

Disease.	Cases notified.	Number of deaths.	Death rate per 1,000 population.
Scarlet Fever ...	122	—	
Diphtheria ...	118	2	0.026
Enteric fever ...	3	—	
Erysipelas ...	18	—	
Cerebro-spinal fever	21	2	0.026
Measles ...	1313	2	0.026
Tuberculosis (all forms) 111 (new cases)		44	0.571

Influenza, which is not notifiable, caused 4 deaths.

# SECTION II.

TABLE 8.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED CASES, 1945.

Cases notified in whole district.													
DISEASE	At all ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up
Scarlet Fever	122	1	4	3	8	9	59	29	7	—	2	—	—
Diphtheria	118	1	3	3	9	6	41	19	12	23	1	—	—
Enteric Fever	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	57	9	5	1	2	6	6	—	2	6	6	12	2
Erysipelas	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	13	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	21	5	1	3	3	2	3	2	—	—	1	—	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1313	72	175	198	188	200	463	11	3	3	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	112	15	10	18	21	10	36	2	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	58	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	13	24	9	9	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	53	1	—	5	6	1	11	11	5	8	2	3	—
TOTALS	1890	107	198	232	237	235	620	75	42	76	27	38	3

The following table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever during the past five years :—

TABLE 9.

Year	Diphtheria		Scarlet Fever	
	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
1941	124	11	60	Nil
1942	309	9	170	Nil
1943	184	11	202	1
1944	131	7	126	1
1945	118	2	122	Nil

TABLE 10.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

1945

CASES		
Notified	Treated	
	At Home	In Hospital
	—	2



TABLE 11.  
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF DIPHTHERIA SHOWN IN AGE GROUPS

DISTRICT	(1) Diphtheria Admissions to Thorpe Isolation Hospital during 1945.			(2) Of (1) number of children completely immunised prior to admission.			(3) Deaths from Diphtheria during 1945			(4) No Com- pletely Immun- ised child died from Diph- theria during 1945
	Ages in years			Ages in years			Ages in years			
	0—4	5—15	over 15	0—4	5—15	over 15	0—4	5—15	over 15	
BLACKHALL	—	4	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	
EASINGTON	2	10	5	1	5	—	—	—	—	
HORDEN	4	16	12	—	8	—	—	1	—	
HAWTHORN	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	
HUTTON HENRY	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
MURTON	6	18	9	2	2	—	1	—	—	
SEATON	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
SHOTTON	2	3	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	
SOUTH HETTON	2	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	
THORNLEY	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
WHEATLEY HILL	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
WINGATE	2	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	
Totals	20	62	36	5	20	—	1	1	—	

TABLE 12.

## CASES OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFIED EACH MONTH DURING 1945

Locality	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May.	June	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Blackhall	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	5
Easington	3	3	—	3	2	1	2	1	—	—	1	1	17
Horden	3	3	4	—	—	1	2	2	5	5	2	5	32
Hawthorn	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Hutton Henry	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Murton	2	7	6	6	3	3	—	1	—	1	4	—	33
Seaton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
Shotton	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	6
South Hetton	1	—	—	1	1	—	3	1	—	—	2	—	9
Thornley	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3
Wheatley Hill	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Wingate	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	—	5
Totals	10	13	11	12	8	6	9	8	10	11	12	8	118

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet fever notifications numbered 122 as compared with 126 in 1944 and 198 in 1943.

Diphtheria notifications decreased to 118, as contrasted with 131 in 1944 and 184 in 1943.

There was a marked rise in the number of cases of measles, 1313 being notified as against 379 in 1944 and 836 in 1943.

Cases of erysipelas numbered 18.

Twenty-one cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis were notified as against 14 and 9 in 1944 and 1943 respectively. As the notifications of this disease are in many cases tentative the figure of 5 proved cases admitted to Thorpe Isolation Hospital gives a truer index of the incidence of this disease in the district during the year.

There were 12 cases of puerperal pyrexia, in contrast with 8 in 1944 and 5 in 1943.

Notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis numbered 58, a decrease of 11 on the figure for 1944, and one below that for 1943.

==

### SECTION III.

#### THORPE HOSPITAL.

308 patients were admitted to the hospital during the year as compared with 353 in 1944. Of these cases 80 were from the Seaham Urban District.

Table 13 shows the distribution of these cases under their corrected diagnosis according to the month of admission, and also shows the number of deaths due to the different diseases.

Table 14 sets out the final diagnoses under the same classification, while table 15 indicates the place of origin of the cases under the headings of the various parishes.

The death rates for the principle diseases treated were as follows :—

	1945			1944		
	Proved Cases	Deaths	%	Proved Cases	Deaths	%
Diphtheria	103	2	1.94	177	10	5.65
Scarlet Fever	82	—	—	99	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	5	2	40.00	?	?	?

There has again been a fall in the incidence of diphtheria together with a marked decrease in the case mortality figure.

The number of scarlet fever admissions shows no great difference from last year. The policy was continued of restricting admissions to cases which were ill enough to require skilled nursing, or where the home conditions were unsatisfactory due to overcrowding or some other reason. Cases from households which included an expectant mother or " food handler " were also admitted. The incidence of complications was small, probably owing to the fact that it has been possible to maintain adequate spacing between the patients.

As regards cerebro-spinal meningitis no comparison is possible with the figures for 1944 as these were uncorrected for final diagnosis. The incidence of this disease was low, but the case mortality figure of 40% was high. The two fatal cases were, however, aged two months and twelve months respectively. In infants, even with the advantages of the sulphonamide group of drugs, the prognosis is still uncertain.



TABLE 13

# **THORPE ISOLATION HOSPITAL** Admissions and Deaths, 1945.

DISEASE.	ADMISSIONS													DEATHS												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Scarlet Fever .. ..	8	5	8	4	8	5	9	5	6	10	7	7	82	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. ..	10	13	14	8	3	7	4	6	13	8	8	9	103	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Diphtheria Carriers .. ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Group of Fevers .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .. ..	7	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rubella .. ..	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mumps .. ..	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Epidemic Cerebro Spinal Meningitis .. ..	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Other Forms of Meningitis .. ..	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	7	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	5
Poliomyelitis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .. ..	2	1	1	—	2	—	—	1	2	2	—	—	11	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bronchitis .. ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Respiratory Diseases .. ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .. ..	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Skin and Septic Conditions .. ..	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	1	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tonsillitis .. ..	—	—	2	6	6	1	4	3	4	4	8	2	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Gastro Intestinal Diseases .. ..	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
General Diseases .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injuries .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vincent's Angina .. ..	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unclassified .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .. ..	31	26	34	25	27	15	22	22	30	29	25	22	308	2	1	3	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	12



TABLE 14

# THORPE ISOLATION HOSPITAL Diseases Admitted—1945.

PROVED TO BE :

SENT IN AS	Number	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Diphtheria Carriers	Enteric Group of Fevers	Dysentery	Measles	Rubella	Mumps	Epidemic Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Other forms of Meningitis	Poliomyelitis	Encephalitis Lethargica	Pneumonia	Bronchitis	Influenza	Other Respiratory Diseases	Erysipelas	Skin and Septic Conditions	Puerperal Pyrexia	Tonsillitis	Other Gastro Intestinal Diseases	General Diseases	Injuries	Vincent's Angina	Unclassified
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	89	77	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	147	5	100	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria Carriers .. .. .	5	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Group of Fevers .. .. .	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .. .. .	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles .. .. .	10	—	—	—	—	—	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rubella .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mumps .. .. .	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Epidemic Cerebro Spinal Meningitis .. .. .	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	6	1	—	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
Other Forms of Meningitis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis .. .. .	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica .. .. .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .. .. .	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Respiratory Diseases .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .. .. .	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Skin and Septic Conditions .. .. .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Tonsillitis .. .. .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other Gastro Intestinal Diseases .. .. .	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
General Diseases .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injuries .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vincent's Angina .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unclassified .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .. .. .	308	82	103	3	1	2	10	4	3	5	7	3	—	11	2	1	1	5	4	5	40	6	2	1	5	2





TABLE 15

## THORPE ISOLATION HOSPITAL

## Admissions under Parishes.

	Blackhall	Easington	Hutton Henry	Haswell	Hawthorn	Horden	Murton	Shotton	South Hetton	Thornley	Trimdon Station	Wheatley Hill	Wingate		Seaham		Totals
Scarlet Fever .. ..	2	11	2	2	1	5	6	2	3	4	—	2	8		34		82
Diphtheria .. ..	4	10	—	—	—	25	23	4	4	1	—	—	3		29		103
Diphtheria Carriers .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—		—		3
Enteric Group of Fevers .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—		—		1
Dysentery .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—		2
Measles .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	7	—	1		—		10
Rubella .. ..	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		1		4
Mumps .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—		—		3
Epidemic Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ..	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—		—		5
Other Forms of Meningitis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	1		1		7
Poliomyelitis .. ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—		1		3
Encephalitis Lethargica .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—		—
Pneumonia .. ..	—	3	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	2	—	—	1		1		11
Bronchitis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—		—		2
Influenza .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		1		1
Other Respiratory Diseases .. ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—		1
Erysipelas .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—		—		5
Skin and Septic Conditions .. ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—		1		4
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—		—		5
Tonsillitis .. ..	1	5	—	—	3	4	10	1	4	—	1	3	2		6		40
Other Gastro Intestinal Diseases ..	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1		—		6
General Diseases .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—		—		2
Injuries .. ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—		1
Vincent's Angina .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—		1		5
Unclassified .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—		—		2
Totals .. ..	9	38	3	3	5	44	47	12	18	15	12	5	17		80		308



The severe shortage of labour and material has again limited structural work to essential maintenance. The air raid shelter was, however, converted for storage purposes, and the "blast walls" were removed, thus greatly improving the lighting and ventilation of the wards.

A food trolley for the conveyance of meals from the kitchen to the wards was purchased, and a refrigerator was installed. Both these acquisitions have proved most useful.

The position as regards nursing and domestic staff has again been reasonably satisfactory, considering the general shortage of both these types of personnel, but an increased proportion of trained nurses is desirable.

Mrs. G. Harrop resigned from the post of Matron in November and was succeeded by Miss D. Green.

#### LABORATORY WORK.

Under the arrangement with the County Council an increased number of specimens was sent to the Joint Committee's Public Health Laboratory at King's College, Newcastle, but the small laboratory established at the hospital was in constant use for the examination of urgent specimens.

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## SECTION IV.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION,

The Council's diphtheria immunisation scheme, which provides free immunisation against diphtheria up to the age of 15 years, has operated during the year.

Since the practice of active immunisation takes place throughout the year the population of immunised children during the year is not the total who had been treated by the end of the year, for those immunised during the later months formed part of the non-immunised population during the earlier months.

The following figures are therefore calculated on the relative risks in terms of child-years spent in the immunised and non-immunised groups :—

Total population of children under 15 years of age in Easington Rural District estimated as living at mid-year .. .. .					21802
<hr/>					
Immunised children at risk one year :—					
Number immunised before January 1st, 1945 ..					11922
Number immunised :—					
January 1st to June 30th .. .. .					432
Three-quarters thereof .. .. .					324
July 1st to December 31st .. .. .					511
One-quarter thereof .. .. .					128
<hr/>					
Total child-years at risk for immunised .. .. .					12374
Non-immunised children ; total child-years at risk (difference 21,802—12374) .. .. .					9428
<hr/>					

The following tables show (a) the total number of children in the district who have been immunised since the commencement of the scheme in 1942, and (b) the number of children finally diagnosed as suffering from diphtheria during the year and the number of deaths, divided into those who had been immunised and those who had not, and into age groups 0—1, 1—5, 5—10, 10—15 years.



# Table of Diphtheria Inoculations

Age at date of inoculation	1942	1943	1944	1945	Ratio of inoculated to total population at the end of 1945.
Under 1 year	18	84	254	181	Total under 5 years
1 +	180	393	698	495	of age 3,217 being
2 +	156	154	354	93	44.9% of the
3 +	188	183	246	33	population of this
4 +	239	189	244	34	age.
5 +	245	132	196	43	
6 +	252	361	144	16	
7 +	314	270	79	19	Total 5—14 years
8 +	960	323	84	7	of age 9,648 being
9 +	872	192	104	6	66.1% of the
10 +	869	226	87	9	population of this
11 +	902	228	178	5	age.
12 +	819	298	123	2	
13 +	—	59	17	—	
14 +	—	—	8	—	
15 +	—	—	—	—	
Total	6014	3092	2816	943	



Age at date of Notification	Number of cases diagnosed as suffering from diphtheria	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the child had completed a full course of immunisation	Age at date of death	No. of Deaths	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the child had completed a full course of immunisation
0 — 1	1	—	0 — 1	—	—
1 — 5	17	4	1 — 5	1	—
5 — 10	30	8	5 — 10	1	—
10—15	17	8	10—15	—	—
	65	20		2	—

# SECTION V.

## TUBERCULOSIS

TABLE 16.

Number of Cases on Register at 31st December, 1945.

PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.			TOTAL
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	CASES
189	174	363	206	218	424	787



TABLE 17.

TUBERCULOSIS—New Cases and Mortality, 1945.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 — 3	—	1	3	2	—	—	1	—
3 — 4	—	—	1	5	—	—	1	1
4 — 5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 — 10	—	1	6	5	—	—	1	1
10 — 15	—	1	6	5	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	6	7	3	2	2	4	—	1
20 — 35	10	14	4	4	10	8	—	—
35 — 45	9	—	1	1	2	4	—	—
45 — 65	4	5	1	2	3	1	2	1
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	29	29	26	27	17	18	5	4

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS DURING 1945.

Phthisis	Total	Positive	Negative
.....	255	18	237

TABLE 18.

## COMPARATIVE TABLE RE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.

YEAR	NEW CASES						DEATHS				No. ON REGISTER AT END OF YEAR					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Male		Female	Male		Female	Male		Female	Male		Female	Male		Female	Total
	Total			Total			Total			Total			Total			
1936	29	34	63	34	32	66	18	18	36	5	11	16	215	215	430	836
1937	32	23	55	31	39	70	28	21	49	6	9	15	98	83	181	238
1938	26	22	48	25	35	60	27	24	51	4	8	12	98	82	180	261
1939	42	24	66	40	34	74	18	17	35	10	2	12	118	74	192	302
1940	33	17	50	19	34	53	27	16	43	4	3	7	123	74	197	323
1941	24	22	46	28	29	57	21	13	34	6	2	8	126	86	212	357
1942	38	35	73	41	36	77	18	10	28	6	3	9	147	113	260	419
1943	29	30	59	18	28	46	20	17	37	8	4	12	167	140	307	436
1944	32	37	69	22	29	51	13	10	23	5	7	12	183	165	348	444
1945	29	29	58	26	27	53	17	18	35	5	4	9	189	174	363	424

TABLE 19.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis between the ages of 15 and 25 years, during the past 10 years.

Year	Male	Female	Total	Percentage of Total Pulmonary Deaths
1936	3	5	8	14%
1937	5	5	10	20%
1938	8	9	17	33%
1939	1	4	5	17%
1940	7	6	13	30%
1941	5	4	9	27%
1942	6	9	15	54%
1943	9	7	16	43%
1944	1	4	5	21%
1945	3	8	11	31%

TABLE 20.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table shows the number of deaths from Tuberculosis (all ages) during the past five years—the figures in parenthesis indicating deaths occurring in previously notified cases of Tuberculosis.

YEAR	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1941	21 (15)	13 ( 8)	34 (23)	6 (3)	2 (1)	8 (4)
1942	18 (14)	10 ( 9)	28 (23)	6 (3)	3 (—)	9 (3)
1943	20 (18)	17 ( 9)	37 (27)	8 (2)	4 (2)	12 (4)
1944	13 ( 9)	10 ( 7)	23 (16)	5 (—)	7 (1)	12 (1)
1945	17 (13)	18 (13)	35 (26)	5 (3)	4 (3)	9 (6)
Total	89 (69)	68 (46)	157 (115)	30 (11)	20 (7)	50 (18)

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Perusal of the foregoing tables will elicit the following facts:

The total number of new cases of the pulmonary form of the disease notified was 58, comprising 29 males and 29 females. This was a decrease of 11 from the figure for 1944 which was 69, made up of 32 males and 37 females.

New notifications of the non-pulmonary form of the disease numbered 53, an increase of 2 over the number for 1944.

The deaths from the pulmonary form of the disease showed an increase from 23 in 1944 to 35, while in the non-pulmonary form the number of deaths was 9, as against 12 in 1944.

The number of new cases among females in the 20 to 35 age group formed 32.1% of all new female cases.

The tuberculosis mortality rates for the district for 1945 were respectively 0.454 per 1,000 of the population for tuberculosis of the respiratory system, and 0.117 per 1,000 for the other tuberculosis diseases.

The figure for the death rate in the respiratory type of the disease should be compared with the figure of 0.519 per 1,000, the rate for England and Wales in 1945. The non-pulmonary death rate stands to be compared with the national rate for 1945 of 0.100.

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## SECTION VI.

### SCABIES.

The clinic for the treatment of this disease has been in operation at Horden throughout the year. The building used was formerly a gas cleansing station and is far from ideal for purpose, but shortage of labour and material have prevented the carrying out of any adaptations or improvements. The Medical Officer of Health attends weekly to examine women and children referred to the clinic by School and Child Welfare Medical Officers and by General Practitioners. The treatment is carried out by a staff consisting of one trained nurse and two helpers. Adult male cases are examined by their own doctors and treated at Leecholme Hospital by a staff recruited from local ambulance workers.

This latter arrangement has not been found to be very satisfactory in practice and it is intended to centralise all the treatment at the Horden Clinic. By this means it is hoped to ensure the simultaneous treatment of all members of an infected family, failing which the treatment can at best be only palliative as re-infection is almost certain to follow.

The staff have carried out good work with the limited facilities available. The fares of all patients attending the clinic are refunded.

Statistics of the work carried out under the scheme during the year are as follows :—

No. of patients summoned for examination	..	370
No. of patients so summoned found to be suffering from scabies	.. .. .	224
No. of patients treated for scabies and cleared of the disease	.. .. .	197

## SECTION VII.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The water undertakings supplying the district are :—

Sunderland and South Shields Water Company.

Horden Collieries Limited.

Wingate and District Water Company.

Wheatley Hill Colliery.

Easington Rural District Council.

The water supply, which is of a high standard of purity, has been satisfactory in quality but barely adequate in quantity to meet the needs of the district.

Six samples of water were sent for chemical and bacteriological examination, and the results of all were satisfactory.

A typical chemical analysis and bacteriological examination is as follows :—

Chemical Analysis.				Parts per 100,000
Total Solids	..	..	..	52.7
Chlorine as Chloride	..	..	..	5.13
Chlorine expressed as Sodium Chloride	..	..	..	8.46
Nitrogen as Nitrates	..	..	..	0.17
Nitrogen as Nitrites	..	..	..	Nil.
Free Ammonia	..	..	..	0.0005
Albuminoid Ammonia	..	..	..	0.0015
Alkalinity	..	..	..	29.90
Total Hardness (degrees)	..	..	..	28.70
Colour (Hazen degrees)	..	..	..	Nil.
Suspended matter	..	..	..	Nil.
Iron	..	..	..	Nil.

#### Bacteriological Examination.

Organisms visible on agar after  
48 hours incubation at 37 °C. .. .. 2 per cc.

Coliform Organisms	1 cc.	10 cc's.	100 cc's.
	nil.	nil.	nil.

With regard to plumbo-solvent action, no evidence has ever been found that this is present in any water used in this district, probably owing to the fact that all the water without exception, is from magnesium limestone and has a permanent and temporary hardness of 25—30°.

Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains (a) direct to houses, (b) by means of stand-pipes, are given in the following table :—

LOCALITY	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Estimated population	Area in acres	Number of houses	No. of Houses with mains supply direct to houses	No. of Houses with mains supply from stand pipes	No. of Houses without mains supply
Burdon ..	109	1297	24			
Seaton with Slingley ..	323	1392	127	166		
Warden Law ..	68	500	15			
Castle Eden ..	1518	1949	464	464		
Cold Hesledon ..	1283	1030	287			
Dalton-le-Dale ..	387	811	243	433	97	
Easington with Thorpe .. ..	11640	4112	2907	2892	8	7
Haswell .. ..	2980		735			—
South Hetton ..	3545	3390	908	1401	240	2
Hutton Henry ..	585		161			3
Station Town ..	2535	2016	656	701	113	—
Hawthorn ..	263	1444	120	118		2
Blackball ..	5692		1873			
Hesledens ..	1399	2630	459	2247	85	
Murton East ..	9079	1406	2490	1860	630	
Sheraton with Hulam .. ..	144	2346	41	—	—	41
Nesbit .. ..	8	333	2	—	2	—
Shotton .. ..	6226		1737			1
Horden .. ..	12753	4673	3556	5292		—
Thornley ..	4455	1148	1204	1174	30	
Wingate .. ..	3279		799			7
Wheatley Hill ..	6796	4176	1655	2896	18	—
Trimdon ..	1923		467			—
TOTALS ..	76990	34653	20930	19644	1223	63



## CLOST ACCOMMODATION.

The number of sanitary conveniences in the district are :

Waterclosets ...	...	23,287
Ash Closets ...	...	148
Privy Middens	...	103
Pan Closets ...	...	74

There have been no conversions from privies to water-closets during the year.

## HOUSING, ETC.

(Contributed by the Engineer & Surveyor).

## SEWERS.

The sewerage system for the district was given the usual careful attention and maintenance during the year and repairs carried out where necessary. The length of the new sewers laid was insignificant compared with pre-war years, being confined to local improvement works on branch sewers.

## HOUSING.

At the termination of hostilities the necessary drawing office work on new housing schemes was well advanced, and a very early commencement on the erection of new houses was possible. The house type designs had been completed and approved early in 1945, the type plans being among the first to be approved by the Ministry of Health ; this being largely due to an anticipation of the requirements of the Dudley Report and the Ministry of Health's Housing Manual. The high standard of the design and the provision of fittings and equipment not normally found in Council Houses has been the subject of favourable comment both within and outside the district.

Field work and the preparation of layouts had all been completed and approved by the middle of 1945, and the work of constructing roads and sewers commenced early in the autumn of that year. The technique of layout design was thoroughly considered in the early stages in view of the modern trend in planning, with the result that the new sites incorporate ample playing field facilities, open spaces, shops where necessary, and the planting of trees and shrubs is included as an integral part of the site development.

The Council's area was one of the first in the Northern Region to be allocated a supply of temporary Prefabricated Houses and work of erection began in the middle of 1945 on 100 " Phoenix " bungalows on the Horden Park Estate. Approximately 50 of these houses had been completed and tenanted by the end of 1945.



A comparison between temporary houses and traditional houses is not out of place at this stage and, whilst the general opinion of the tenants in the temporary houses is that the accommodation is good, this, to some extent, may be influenced by the relief felt by such tenants in securing a "home". All the "features" of the temporary house are incorporated in the Council's traditional house and many more besides, including "soft water on tap," aerial and earth installation for radio built in, drying cupboard with facilities for rapid drying of clothes, tradesmen's cupboard, and many others successfully tested and demonstrated before inclusion in the specification. With regard to the important point of maintenance it is too early to comment on the repairs due to usage which the temporary houses will require, but it can be stated that from the structural point of view the cost of maintaining such houses will be considerably more than that required for traditional houses. That the temporary house programme sponsored by the Government is having an effect on the erection of traditional houses is undeniable, since priority of supply of materials and fittings common to both types is in favour of temporary houses.

The maintenance of some 4,711 Council houses continued during 1945 despite severe difficulties with regard to materials. Especially difficult was the supply of replacement back boilers and ranges, paint and rainwater goods, and many houses in the district are still without eaves gutters consequent upon the damage done by the heavy snowstorm of 1941.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The supply position in the Council's area, covered as it is by five different undertakings, continued satisfactory during the year. With particular reference to the Council's area of supply considerable waste of water was experienced due to defective fittings on the consumers' side, and this had to receive special attention in order to avoid a major threat to the general supply.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING

(Contributed by the Cleansing Superintendent).

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The cleansing and disposal of refuse, etc., is carried out by the Cleansing Department for the whole of the rural area, which service has been in operation as a central department since October, 1932.

The vehicles used for cleansing work in this area are five Morris Refuse Collectors, four S & D Freighters and two Karrier Bantams which are engaged full time, in addition there are twenty-two horsedrawn vehicles. All vehicles for cleansing are provided with iron sliding covers which are not only a protection against the spilling of the refuse, but are also a prevention against any dust nuisance.

The disposal of all refuse is semi-controlled, this being done in layers as far as possible which is an additional precaution against fire occurring.

Since the end of April 1940, the Cleansing Department has been responsible for the salvage of paper, metals, rags and bones, etc., and records to date prove that by the amounts disposed of the collection of salvage has been successful.

## SECTION VIII.

### REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir, I have pleasure in submitting a report of the work carried out by my section of the department during the year 1945.

The following table shows the principal nuisances dealt with during the year :—

#### PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Nature of Nuisance	No. of Visits	Notices Served		Nuisances Abated
		Informal	Formal	
Foul Conditions .....	123	18	—	13
Structural Defects .....	162	57	—	21
Ashpits & Privies .....	15	—	—	1
Deposits of Refuse and Manure .....	88	24	2	18
Waterclosets .....	140	34	—	37
Defective Yard Paving .....	20	2	—	1
House Drainage—				
Defective Traps .....	34	8	—	5
Other Faults .....	119	40	—	23
Water Supply (Defective Fittings) .....	84	26	—	14
Animals improperly kept .....	36	5	—	7
Smoke Nuisances .....	5	1	—	—
Other Nuisances .....	18	—	—	1
Rat Infested Premises .....	35	4	—	4
Dustbins .....	105	48	2	40
Public Halls & Cinemas .....	71	3	—	2
Licenced Premises .....	151	3	—	7
Verminous Premises—				
Council Houses .....	89	6	—	3
Private Houses .....	67	10	—	7
Infectious Diseases				
Enquiries .....	455	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases				
Disinfections .....	365	—	—	—
Tents, Vans & Sheds .....	3	—	—	2
	2185	289	4	206

## SCHOOLS.

All the schools in the district have been inspected with regard to closet accommodation and washing facilities and were found to be satisfactory. It was not necessary to close any schools for infectious diseases.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

War time control of spoilbanks was still enforced and we had no complaints during the year.

## MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

No applications were received for licences to occupy huts, caravans, etc.

## VERMINOUS PREMISES.

28 houses were disinfested for the presence of bed-bugs, of these 20 were Council Houses and 8 private dwellings. A charge for time and materials was made in the case of all private dwellings.

## DISINFECTION OF PREMISES AND PERSONS.

455 visits and re-visits were made to houses in cases of infectious diseases, and the number of disinfections carried out during the year is as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	..	..	118
Diphtheria	..	..	112
Meningitis	..	..	18
Erysipelas	..	..	1
Chicken Pox	..	..	1
Tuberculosis	..	..	100
Cancer ..	..	..	4
Diarrhoea	..	..	2
Bronchitis	..	..	1
Para-typhoid	..	..	3
Measles ..	..	..	1
Poliomyelitis	..	..	4
			<hr/>
			365
			<hr/>

## LICENSED PREMISES, CLUBS, ETC.

151 inspections of public houses and clubs were made.

3 informal notices were served to occupiers.

7 outstanding notices were complied with.

## CINEMAS AND PUBLIC HALLS.

71 inspections were made with regard to heating, lighting, ventilation and closet accommodation.

3 informal notices were served to occupiers.

2 outstanding notices were complied with.



## RODENT CONTROL.

The initial treatment of the sewers for the disinfection of rats was completed in April and it was estimated that 14,885 rats were destroyed. When it is considered that a rat will eat roughly one pound of food per day, if it is available, and contaminate many times this amount, it will be appreciated the tremendous waste of food caused by rats, and how worth while the effort to destroy as many as possible. This of course is in addition to the serious amount of damage to fabrics and structures caused by rats.

The first maintenance treatment was completed in July, and the result, seen below, proves how necessary it is to carry out regular maintenance treatment of the sewers each year.

Complaints from business premises and private dwellings were many and varied. All complaints were investigated and many proved to be frivolous and a waste of time for the Rodent Officer.

Full powers under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 were delegated to us by the County Council at the beginning of the year, and we have made full use of the powers. The whole of the district was surveyed by the Rodent Officer and all premises where evidence of rats was found were disinfested.

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## SEWERS

	Manholes Baited	Estimated number of rats destroyed	Approximate Cost	Recovered by Grant	Nett cost to Council
Initial Treatment .. ..	5773	14885	£1510	£803	£707
Maintenance Treatment .. ..	963	1590	£213	£109	£104
Total .. ..	6736	16475	£1723	£912	£811

## LANDS AND PREMISES

	Number dealt with	Degree of Infestation	No. of Baiting Points	Estimated No. of rats destroyed	Approx- imate cost	Recovered from Occupier or Min. of Food	Nett cost to Council
Council Tips .. ..	4	2 major 2 minor	31	216	£22 2 8	—	£22 2 8
Council Sewage Works .. ..	3	1 major 2 minor	27	140			
Business Premises .. ..	46	1 major 45 minor	116	306	£99 8 7	£99 8 7	Nil.
Private Dwellings .. ..	53	4 major 49 minor	174	662	£121 11 3	£99 8 7	£22 2 8
Total .. ..							

### HOUSING.

No new houses were built during the year, but many houses, both prefabricated and traditional are well on the way to completion.

81 vacant Council houses were inspected and of these 20 were found to be verminous.

### OVERCROWDING.

115 applications for Council houses were received with allegations of overcrowding. All were investigated and recorded and in most cases the conditions were brought to the notice of the local housing committee.

Inspections under Circular 2871 regarding building work were carried out, but further efforts were made by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Works to prevent labour and building material being expended on non-essential work. To this end they circularised all local authorities in August, stipulating that no building work costing over £10 was to be carried out without a building licence. As each application has to be investigated, this meant a great deal of extra work. Up to the 31st December, 127 applications for building licences were investigated, entailing 170 inspections.

The volume of work in respect to complaints of housing defects and insanitary conditions continues to increase, mainly due to the fact that property has deteriorated so much during the war years, owing to lack of facilities and material for repairs. Even at this stage, labour and material are so scarce that only the minimum of essential repairs can be carried out.

Inspections under the Housing Act 1936 are as follows :—

Number of visits and revisits	..	743
Number of informal notices served	..	132
Number of statutory notices served		1
Number of notices complied with	..	67

### FACTORY ACT, 1937.

Regular inspection of all premises controlled by this act has been maintained, principally with regard to sanitary accommodation, heating, lighting, ventilation, cleanliness, etc.

Three notices drawing our attention to insanitary conditions have been received during the year from His Majesty's Inspector of Factories. The requisite notices to remedy these defects were served and complied with.

One new factory, a small printing works, was added to the list of factories. The following table gives particulars of factory inspections, etc.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspect- ions	Notices Served	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories—				
With Mechanical Power	35	234	19	None
Without do. do.	21			
Bakehouses	26			
Workplaces	40			
Total - -	122	234	19	-

#### SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Regular inspections of all shops premises were carried out principally with regard to the enforcement of sufficient sanitary accommodation, lighting, heating, ventilation and washing facilities.

208 inspections were made, and 6 infringements of the act were found and dealt with.

### SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

#### INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

##### MEAT :—

The year 1945 has seen the completion of five years of centralised slaughtering, and now after the termination of hostilities no sign appears even of modification of the system much less of its abandonment in favour of pre-war methods. I am aware that its inception, in all probability, came from the urgency of war rather than the adoption of improved Public Health principles, a fact which, in itself, is not without irony.

The pros and contras of any discussion on the subject of centralised slaughtering are generally well enough known and I am not disposed to dwell on the matter except to indicate by reference my awareness of obvious criticisms which in the main, come from established businesses. Carcases are, admittedly, subject to additional handling and present transport arrangements are far from ideal, whilst pre-war years saw a great deal of unsound meat and offal destroyed without the local authority being "bothered."



I prefer that what is unsound and offered for destruction should still be under control. Only in this way can it be properly utilised in industry. What to me is decisive is the fact that under the old system *some* unsound meat and offal *did pass* to the public. A small amount probably still does. Human fallibility and incomplete knowledge of the cause of some animal disease render such a possibility likely. However in pre-war years I claim much more must have been passed on to the public.

With a total of 14,246 there was a decrease of 672 in the number of animals slaughtered at the Station Town Co-operative Abattoir during the year as compared with 1944. Although fewer animals were slaughtered the work of inspection was heavier in as much as larger killings of cattle, calves and pigs took place, all of which require careful examination, whilst 1,192 fewer sheep, which are comparatively immune to disease, were dealt with.

Difficulties consequent on heavy slaughterings, arrangements for the disposal of unsound meat and the collection and utilisation of glands continue on the same general lines, described in greater detail in previous reports.

This year, as always, tuberculosis in food animals is responsible for greater loss than all other causes combined, whilst the fluke infected pastures of Ireland result in the appropriate organs of Irish store cattle pursuing their accustomed journey to the "condemned" hut rather than the dinner-table.

Amongst other diseases, Johnes' disease is frequently encountered but has little significance except in advanced cases, whilst mastitis continues to be a scourge amongst dairy stock and is responsible for many cows being brought into the abattoir as casualties.

I continue the practice of giving figures of stock slaughtered, evidence of disease, and comparative totals of condemnations in past years in tabular form for convenience.

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	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Slaughtered at Government Controlled Abattoir	2957 plus 42 Casualties	640 plus 105 Reject & Casualties 1 T.B. Order	629 plus 74 Casualties	9376 plus 86 Casualties	296 plus 40 Casualties
Number Slaughtered under private license	—	—	—	2	696
Whole Carcasses condemned (T.B. only)	2 plus 2 Casualties	4 plus 9 Reject & Casualties 1 T.B. Order	1 plus 2 Casualties	—	1 Casualty
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned (T.B. only)	603		4	—	6
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	16.11%		0.57%	—	1.78%
Carcases condemned. (All diseases excluding T.B.)	2 Casualties	6 Casualties	1 Casualty	8 plus 2 Casualties	1
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned. (All conditions excluding T.B.)	458		3	30	4
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	12.23%		0.43%	0.32%	1.19%



SUMMARY OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED DURING  
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1945.

CATTLE.		Sts.	lbs.	
4	Carcases Cow Beef .. ..	141	12	Generalised T.B.
	All organs and offal .. ..	39	3	Tuberculosis.
	Both fores Cow Beef .. ..	22	6	Tuberculosis.
	Part fore Cow Beef .. ..	2	11	Tuberculosis.
	One middle Cow Beef .. ..	5	12	Tuberculosis.
	Both thin flanks Cow Beef ..	3	5	Tuberculosis.
	Both thin flanks Cow Beef ..	2	5	Tuberculosis.
	Both fores Cow Beef .. ..	20	4	Tuberculosis.
	Both fores Cow Beef .. ..	20	13	Tuberculosis.
	Both fores Cow Beef .. ..	19	2	Tuberculosis.
	Both fores Cow Beef .. ..	19	12	Tuberculosis.
	One fore Cow Beef .. ..	9	13	Tuberculosis.
	One fore Cow Beef .. ..	10	0	Tuberculosis.
	Part fore Cow Beef .. ..	1	0	Tuberculosis.
2	Carcases Cow Beef (reject)	58	8	Generalised T.B.
	All organs and offal .. ..	17	0	Tuberculosis.
	Both fores and middles (reject)	29	2	Tuberculosis.
	One fore Cow Beef (reject) ..	8	5	Tuberculosis.
	Both fores Cow Beef (reject)	11	9	Tuberculosis.
	Both hinds Cow Beef (reject)	16	11	Tuberculosis.
	Flank and loin trimmings (reject)	1	2	Tuberculosis.
3	Carcases Cow Beef (Casualty)	90	8	Generalised T.B.
	All organs and offal .. ..	32	2	Tuberculosis.
4	Carcases Cow Beef (Casualty)	100	6	Tuberculosis,
	All organs and offal .. ..	33	0	dropsy and
				emaciation.
	One side Cow Beef (Casualty)	20	2	Tuberculosis.
	Organs and Offal .. ..	7	7	Tuberculosis.
	Both fores Cow Beef (Cas.) ..	14	8	Tuberculosis.
	Part fore Cow Beef (Cas.) ..	2	10	Tuberculosis.
1	Carcase Cow Beef (T.B. Order)	33	1	Generalised T.B.
	All organs and offal .. ..	14	13	Tuberculosis.
1	Carcase Heifer Beef .. ..	39	12	Generalised T.B.
	All organs and offal .. ..	10	0	Tuberculosis.
	One fore Heifer Beef .. ..	11	10	Tuberculosis.
	One fore Heifer Beef .. ..	12	5	Tuberculosis.
	One flank and part fore Heifer	2	4	Tuberculosis.
	Part both fores Heifer .. ..	2	13	Tuberculosis.
	Part middle Heifer .. ..	2	7	Tuberculosis.
	Two thin flanks Heifer .. ..	3	4	Tuberculosis.
2	Carcases Heifer Beef (Casualty)	44	5	Generalised T.B.
	All organs and offal .. ..	13	8	Tuberculosis.
	One side Heifer Beef (Casualty)	18	8	Tuberculosis.
	Organs and offal .. ..	8	0	Tuberculosis.

			Sts.	lbs.	
1	Carcase Bullock Beef	..	37	12	Generalised T.B.
	All organs and offal	..	11	6	Tuberculosis.
	Both fores Bullock Beef	..	25	9	Tuberculosis.
	One side Bull (Casualty)	..	10	10	Tuberculosis.
	One fore Bull (Casualty)	..	4	4	Tuberculosis.
	Organs and offal	..	5	13	Tuberculosis.
	Part hind Bullock	..	2	11	Bone-Taint.
	Part fore Bullock	..	1	9	Bone-Taint.
	Part hind	..	1	9½	Bone-taint.
2	Carcases Cow Beef (reject)		53	8	Dropsy and
	All organs and offal	..	16	8	Emaciation
					(1 Nephritis.)
1	Carcase Cow Beef (Casualty)		25	13	Dropsy and
	Organs and offal	..	7	12	Emaciation
					(Pericarditis).
2	Carcases Cow Beef (Casualty)		44	6	Johnes disease
	Organs and offal	..	15	12	with Emaciation.
1	Carcase Cow Beef (Casualty)		33	11	Septic peri-
	Organs and offal	..	8	4	carditis.
	Both fores Cow Beef (Casualty)		15	13	Extensive septic
					adhesions.
	Part Leg Cow (Casualty)	..	1	7	Large Abscess
	Part fore Cow Beef	..		13	Large Abscess.
	Part fore Cow Beef	..	1	1	Bruising and
					Congestion.
1	Carcase Heifer Beef (Casualty)		17	7	Pathological
	Organs and offal	..	7	0	Emaciation
					(Pneumonia).
1	Carcase Heifer Beef (Casualty)		14	7	Pyæmia.
	Organs and offal	..	4	4	do.
	Both hinds Heifer Beef (Cas.)		20	6	Extensive and
					severe bruising
					and congestion
					following injury.
130	Beastheads and tongues	..	309	4	Tuberculosis.
10	Beastheads and tongues	..	23	0	Actinomycosis.
10	Beast tongues	..	2	12	Actinomycosis.
582	Beast lungs	..	454	6	Tuberculosis.
425	Beast lungs	..	326	10	Cysts, Aspira-
					tion, etc.
340	Beasts livers and pieces	..	620	12	Cirrhosis.
193	Beast livers	..	186	10	T.B. Abscesses,
					Cysts, Bacterial
					Necrosis.
	Sundry Beast offal	..	316	1	T.B. Mastitis,
					Johnes disease,
					etc.

## CALVES.

			Sts.	lbs.	
1	Carcase Calf	.. ..	6	9	Generalised T.B.
	Organs and offal	.. ..	1	3	do.
2	Carcases Calves (Casualties)		8	3	Generalised T.B.
	Organs and offal	.. ..	1	10	do.
1	Carcase Calf (Casualty)	.. ..	5	2	Septicaemia
	Organs and offal	.. ..	0	13	(Perforated Intestine).
	One Calf pluck (Casualty)	.. ..		4	Tuberculosis.
	Both fores Calf (Casualty)	.. ..	1	4	Abscess contam-
	Two heads and plucks	.. ..	1	3	ination.

## SHEEP.

6	Carcases Lamb	.. ..	23	4	Decomposition.
	Organs and offal	.. ..	5	8	do.
2	Carcases Lamb	.. ..	3	13	Dropsy and Emaciation.
2	Carcases Lamb (Casualty)	.. ..	1	12	do.
	Heads and plucks	.. ..		10	do.
	Fores, middles, legs Lamb				
	14 Casualties	.. ..	7	4	Bruising and Congestion.
	Both fores Ewe (Casualty)		1	11	Septic Adhesions.
	One fore Lamb (Casualty)	.. ..	1	3	do.
	Sundry Sheep offal	.. ..	3	9	Abscesses, Cysts and Cirrhosis.

## PIGS.

1	Carcase Sow Pig (Casualty)	.. ..	16	5	Generalised T.B.
	Organs and offal	.. ..	1	5	do.
1	Carcase Sow Pig	.. ..	30	10	Decomposition.
	Organs and offal	.. ..	1	4	do.
3	Pig Heads	.. ..	5	13	Tuberculosis.
	One fore Pork	.. ..	2	0	Severe bruising and congestion.
	Part leg Pork (Casualty)	.. ..		11	Bruising and Congestion.
	Two pig plucks	.. ..	1	0	Tuberculosis.
	One pig pluck	.. ..		7	Congestion.

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3747      4½

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## TINNED FOODS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS.

				Sts.	lbs.	
	Parings Corned Beef ..	..		7		Staining
345	Tins Corned Beef ..	..	69	12		
390	Tins Meat Products ..	..	48	8 $\frac{1}{4}$		} Decomposition due to 'blown' or damaged tins.
332	Tins Vegetable Products ..	..	27	3 $\frac{1}{4}$		
345	Tins Fish Products ..	..	14	2 $\frac{3}{4}$		
134	Tins Milk ..	..	8	8 $\frac{1}{4}$		
3	Tins Fruit ..	..		3		
57	Tins & Jars Preserves ..	..	6	4		
	Quantity Rice ..	..	7	2		Spoilt by water.
	Quantity Tea ..	..		12		Spoilt by water.
	Quantity Dried Fruit ..	..	14	5		Ferment & Mould
	Quantity Bacon & Ham ..	..	3	9 $\frac{1}{4}$		Decomposition.
	Quantity Margarine ..	..	2	7 $\frac{3}{4}$		Rancidity
	Quantity Butter ..	..	52	10 $\frac{1}{2}$		Rancidity.
	Quantity Cheese ..	..	4	11 $\frac{1}{2}$		Mould.
	Quantity Sugar ..	..	2	9 $\frac{3}{4}$		Dampness contamination.
	Quantity Lard ..	..	6	0		Penetrating stain and mould.
	Sundry Provisions (Flour, Lentils) ..	..	47	8 $\frac{3}{4}$		Dampness, Decomposition.
	Quantity Fish ..	..	24	7		Decomposition.
	Total—Tinned Foods, etc. ..	..	342	6		
	Total—Meat, etc. ..	..	3747	4 $\frac{1}{2}$		
	Total Weight ..	..	4089	10 $\frac{1}{2}$		

25 Tons, 11 Cwts. 1 St. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.

YEAR ENDING  
31st DECEMBER.WEIGHT OF MEAT ETC., CON-  
DEMNED.

1935	2 Tons.	7 Cwts.	1 St.	8 lbs.
1936	1 Ton.	3 Cwts.	2 Sts.	12 lbs.
1937	4 Tons.	13 Cwts.	1 St.	1 lb.
1938	2 Tons.	1 Cwt.	6 Sts.	3 lbs.
1939	3 Tons.	6 Cwts.	5 Sts.	13 lbs.
1940	21 Tons.	1 Cwt.	3 Sts.	0 lbs.
1941	17 Tons.	12 Cwts.	5 Sts.	2 lbs.
1942	11 Tons.	3 Cwts.	4 Sts.	7 lbs.
1943	18 Tons.	12 Cwts.	4 Sts.	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
1944	21 Tons,	4 Cwts.	4 Sts.	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
1945	25 Tons,	11 Cwts.	1 St.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.



#### PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

Vehicles used for the transport of meat from the Abattoir have been regularly inspected and maintained in a clean condition.

#### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

No new licence to slaughter animals was issued during the year and two licences were renewed. Conditions at the Abattoir are still congested and it is with great difficulty that the prevention of cruelty regulations are complied with.

#### DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1894-1909.

It was not necessary to notify any cases of Swine Fever, Anthrax, etc., under this Act and none were received from the Police.

#### TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1938.

One cow was sent to the Abattoir under the terms of the above Order. Post-mortem examination showed the disease to be in an advanced stage and the carcass was condemned with all organs and offal.

There is little doubt that more cows would be sent in for slaughter under the T.B. Order except that experienced farmers send in such animals on their own behalf, as casualties, thereby anticipating veterinary action since the disease has often been demonstrated in advanced degree in such animals with udder lesions existing.

#### OTHER FOODS.

Strict supervision of all food premises has been continued and bearing in mind that many foodstuffs, such as milk, ice cream, meat pies, etc., are ideal vehicles for the propagation of certain infectious diseases, it will be appreciated that regular inspection must be maintained, with special attention to cleanliness and personal hygiene of the staff employed.

With regard to provisions, canned foods, etc., it will be seen from the foregoing table that 342 stones 6 lbs. were condemned. There is an increase of 178 stones over 1944 which has entailed considerably more work when it is remembered that every article must be inspected. A large proportion of the unsound canned foods was again caused by perforated cans due to faulty packing and careless handling during transport.

Most food stuffs are still under control of the Ministry of Food and condemned food can only be replaced on the production of the Sanitary Inspector's certificate.

• All quantities of fats, butter, cheese and bacon are returned to wholesalers for possible salvage and processing.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Restaurant Kitchens (including British Restaurants, Cafes, etc.)

All these premises are visited frequently and advice given to enable the occupier to prepare the food under hygienic conditions. Items needing attention at the British Restaurants are brought to the notice of the Accountant and the Surveyor.

#### HAWKERS CARTS AND VANS.

All vehicles carrying foodstuffs, including bakers' vans, meat vans and carts, hawkers' carts, etc., are stopped periodically and inspected.

#### FRIED FISH SHOPS.

Regular inspection of fish shops was maintained and in several cases alterations and improvements were carried out, principally by the alteration of the provision of new preparation rooms. There is no change in the number of fried fish shops on the register.

#### MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE CREAM.

Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 compels the registration of all ice cream manufacturers, vendors and premises. During the year two applications for registration were received. After investigation, these were considered by the Health Committee and the applications granted.

The premises are all visited regularly and a very high standard of cleanliness is enforced. Generally the ice cream is produced in a very hygienic manner and it is rarely necessary to draw the attention of an occupier to any infringement of the act.

Premises	Number Registered	Number of Inspections	Notices Served	Occupiers Prosecuted
Fish Shops	54	183	5	—
Butchers' Shops	50	142	5	—
Ice Cream Shops	16	184	—	—
Restaurant Kitchens	—	76	4	—
Other Food Premises	—	360	17	—
TOTALS —	120	945	31	—

MILK SUPPLY.

Strict supervision and inspection of the production, distribution and sale of all milk is still carried out.

All farms where milk is produced and all retail purveyors' premises are visited regularly.

MILK EXAMINATION.

183 samples of whole and pasteurised milk were taken and sent to King's College and Sunderland Royal Infirmary for examination during 1945, and the following results were obtained :—

	(a) Methylene Blue Test.			(b) Bacillus Coli Test			Total Count and Phosphatase Test (Pasteurised)			Biological Test for Tuberculosis	
	No. of Samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	% Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	% Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	% Unsatisfactory	% Positive
Whole Milk	147	118	28	19%	121	26	17.6%			144	3
Pasteurised Milk	36	34	2	5.5%	36	3	8.3%	31	3	9.7%	2.08%



## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936-44.

The number of persons licenced to produce, bottle or sell designated milk is as follows :—

	Grade of Milk			
	Tuberculin Tested	Aceredited	Pasteurised	Total
Wholesale Producers	2	10	1	13
Retail Producers	2	8	—	10
Bottler Retailers	—	—	1	1
Retailers	—	—	17	17
TOTAL —	4	18	19	41

Samples of milk are taken at the farm where it is produced and at the dairies of retail purveyors and sent to either the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, or the Royal Infirmary, Sunderland to be tested. The tests carried out are Methylene Blue test, B. Coli., and Tubercle Bacilli, for raw milk and the total count and Phosphatase test for pasteurised milk. Three samples of milk showed the presence of tubercle bacilli and the results were sent to the County Medical Officer. The farms were promptly visited by a veterinary inspector who took a series of samples from each herd. On two farms the results showed negative, but this can be explained by the fact that the farms in each case disposed of an animal before the veterinary inspector took the samples. In the third case, the result was positive and the guilty cow was sent to the abattoir for slaughter. On post mortem examination by the meat inspector, it was found to be infected with generalised tuberculosis and was condemned.

Strict supervision of the East Durham Co-operative Dairies' pasteurisation establishment still continues and generally considering war conditions and shortage of labour, the plant is managed in a satisfactory manner.

The new pasteurisation plant installed last year is working satisfactorily and is proving much more efficient than the old one. The new plant is the High Temperature Short Time type. Results of samples have been given on the previous page.

Many complaints of sour milk were received and investigated. Some were due to lack of proper precautions on the part of the consumer, others due to the milk being delivered at the end



of the round with the consequent exposure during warm weather, and lastly, some retailers are compelled to buy a supplementary supply of milk outside the district which in many cases has been a long time in transit and consequently is of a poor keeping quality.

3 applications were received from farmers to be registered as cowkeepers and 2 to have their premises registered as dairies and after consideration by the Health Committee were granted.

One application to be registered as a retail purveyor was granted.

	Number Registered	Inspections	Notices Served	Occupiers Prosecuted
Producers	120	324	45	—
Retail Purveyors	13	95	2	1

In conclusion I would like to record my appreciation of your guidance during the year, and the loyal co-operation of the staff in the efficient discharge of their duties.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. SAVAGE,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

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